

Betsy Pringle, Chair, welcomed the group at about 6:40 p.m. She introduced Marie Stake, Communications Program Manager for the City, who would serve as a facilitator for the advisory group's discussion at this meeting.

Ms. Stake recapped the purpose of the advisory group, and discussed where the group was at this point. She suggested that the group begin by going through the issues presented in Attachment 3 to the draft memo for the Houghton Community Council which had been included in the materials for this meeting.

The group began discussion of the preliminary direction presented in the memo:

I. Vision Statement – Comments included:

- The points listed seem fairly general. The vision statement should address the special character of Central Houghton
- Territorial views, slope and watershed areas are valued, and are part of the neighborhood's character
- The residents value the predominantly low density residential character, but also want diversity in the housing stock
- Vision should include concept that the neighborhood has places where residents can gather, one of which would be within the Houghton Business District (consider this term rather than "Houghton Center" – "Third Place" concept was discussed.
- Term "eastside rail corridor" should replace "eastside corridor"
- Should note that traffic of 108th and 68th is managed, with streets designed to be compatible with surrounding development.

II. Historic Context – Comments included:

- Noted need for introduction in Neighborhood Plan – prior to discussion of historic context.
- Advisory group member Byron Katsuyama noted that he is aware of a source of historic information in addition to that available from the Heritage Society
- Member noted existence of a marker at the bank in Houghton Center with good historical information
- History of Carillon Woods as a water district should be included

III. Natural Environment – Comments included:

- Better connections needed for pedestrians in parks – like Juanita Bay
- Trails should be maintained – rocks installed to avoid muddy trails, and overgrown vegetation should be removed to make paths more accessible
- Places to sit should be available
- Keep watercourse section from existing plan
- Return to natural use to encourage natural runoff
- Tree canopy should be addressed – neighborhood value
- Views can be part of natural environment
- Elements unique to Central Houghton
 - Topography of neighborhood remains apparent - part of character
 - Slopes, views at street ends
- Improve watershed quality – slope stabilization, return vegetation to native

IV. Land Use – Comments included:

- Residential
 - Design of residential property west of Houghton Center should be viewed in context of the larger neighborhood
- Schools and churches
 - Churches and schools are a valued in the neighborhood, and the mutual benefits between the community and the school/church should be acknowledged
 - Points listed in memo should be made more positive
 - People who attend school or church in Central Houghton are part of the neighborhood, even if they don't live there
 - Change "partnership" to "relationship" in point about connection between neighborhood and these uses
 - Can be underutilized assets
- Northwest University
 - Unresolved issue within advisory group: should neighborhood plan include a policy that states that the boundaries of NW University should not be expanded
- Commercial
 - Extend boundary to west to include multifamily property discussed at last meeting
 - No big box in Houghton Business District – possibly put limits on square footage
 - Design guidelines should be developed for business district

V. Transportation – Comments included:

- Maintain language from existing plan about connections, non-motorized, etc.
- Support for existing text, page 17
- Goal: Attractive, safe pedestrian and bicycle routes connecting transit, schools and neighborhood centers
- North end of 106th – would become part of commercial area
- Revise 3rd bullet (page 5 of memo) – Priority should be given to connections along NE 68th Street . . .
- Streetscape design is important: 108th & 68th, including intersection: walkable sidewalk width, peds, safety, trees maintained, tree grates, aesthetics
- Intersection at 108th and 52nd/53rd – Safety problems exist now due to concentration of schools and churches
- Mid-block crosswalk by fire station should be studied – people cross here without crosswalk today
- Discussion about balance between making the area more ped-friendly, which accommodating vehicles.
 - More congestion may be solution.
 - Greater support from group for ped-safety than capacity for vehicles
- ITS at 108th/68th?

VI. Open Space and Parks – Comments included:

- Some members suggested that the plan continue to encourage diversity in ages and uses that the parks serve
- Others stated that all parks should strive to address as many people and needs as possible
- Pocket parks should be encouraged with development

VII. Public Services/Facilities/Utilities - Comments included:

- Concerns about the heights of cell towers

VIII. Urban Design – Comments included:

- One person - need better walkable connection along 52nd between 108th and LWB
- Improvements are needed for pedestrian experience along 108th where private fence abuts the sidewalk, and no landscape strip separates the sidewalk and curb
- Ped-oriented lighting needed along 108th - Safety is a problem, particularly at intersections which are not lit for pedestrians
- A consistent look to lighting throughout the neighborhood may be desired
- Views (should these be addressed in Natural Environment?):
 - 58th, between 106th & 104th
 - 55th, between 106th & 104th
 - 52nd at tracks
 - 60th pedestrian path by tracks (also need improved ped lighting)

At the end of the discussion, the advisory group members decided they did not need to meet again to review the materials to be transmitted to the Houghton Community Council. Staff will prepare the draft recommendation from the group, and email it to members for comments prior to forwarding to the HCC. The recommendation will be signed by the group's chair, Betsy Pringle.

Ms. Pringle thanked the group for their commitment to the project, and the time they had contributed to the effort to update the neighborhood plan.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:15 p.m.